Jacob Keene.

From the Middletown (N. Y.) Press, Jan. 20.

The death of Mr. Jacob Keene occurred Tuesday morning at half past one o'clock, at his residence on Wilcox avenue. He had been ill nearly four months with neuralgia of the stomach, and for about six weeks was confined to his bed. This complaint, with a complication of other diseases, caused his death.

He was born July 24, 1816, making him in his 72d year at the time of his death. His birthplace was at Newark, N. J., where his father owned extensive quarries. At Newark he received his early education, which was a thorough one. He was interested in gaining a knowledge of the manufacture of iron and steel, and acquired such a familiarity with it when a young man that it served him to good purpose in later life. He early took to railroading business, and many years ago had a position as Superintendent of Tracks on the Camden and Amboy Road in New Jersey. While with this company, by an unfortunate accident in getting on a train, he fell under the wheels, and lost his right arm. From the Camden and Amboy Railroad he entered the service of the Erie, his first position being Superintendent of Tracks, with headquarters at Piermont. This was when the road was first laid out, and as he was still in the company's employ when he died, it made him one of the oldest employees in their service. For a great many years he was Roadmaster of the Eastern Division of the Erie, with his headquarters in Middletown, and for a short time was General Roadmaster of the whole road from Jersey City to Dunkirk. A few years ago his health failing him he resigned his position of Roadmaster of the Eastern Division, and was made Agent for Supplies, with an office at Paterson.

By railroad men he was considered one of the best equipped men for general information in the State of New York, and he was frequently consulted by officials of other roads on matters especially pertaining to the tracks. In this particular he knew all about what a railroad should be. A person could always go to him for information on the subjects on which he was such good authority and come away with correct information. With the Erie officials he was recognized as one of their most reliable men, and they frequently consulted him on matters of real estate and the track. It has been frequently said of Mr. Keene that he knew every foot of the road, especially on the Eastern Division. He was well liked by the other employees, and they all speak of him in the highest terms.

The deceased was married many years ago to Sarah Vandewater, and they had six children, only two of whom now survive—Misses Mary and Leah Keene, who reside at home. The wife and children are nearly prostrated by the death of the husband and father, who was fairly idolized by them. Two of the children died during Mr. and Mrs. Keene's residence in Middletown, which commenced about the year 1850. He is also survived by one sister, Mrs. Wm. J. Williamson, of Bloomfield, N. J.

Mr. Keene was a man who lived a quiet life and enjoyed the circle of his family. He was one of the first to join Phœnix Engine Company many years ago and later became the company's foreman and afterwards was Chief Engineer of the Middletown fire department. He also held at one time the office of village trustee and was one of the most valuable members of the board the village ever had.

In politics he was originally a whig and then became a republican, which party he always adhered to. Mr. and Mrs. Keene were both brought up in the Presbyterian denomination, but their children attend the Episcopal Church. The remains were taken to Bloomfield, N. J., for burial.

Mr. Keene was a reader of more than ordinary merit, and frequently entertained in this manner small select circles of his most intimate friends, but was too modest to appear in public—except occasionally for some charitable object—though often importuned to do so. His rendition of Enoch Arden and some other selections could not have been surpassed by professionals.

Is It Memory?

It is an experience familiar enough to many persons that they find themselves at times in places where their surroundings seem to have been known to them before, and yet they know that this is the first time they have ever been upon the spot.

In some instances the recognition may be due to a picture of the place, seen somewhere at some time, of which all recollection was lost except the impression it made. Or it may be that the place has been described under circumstances which are wholly forgotten, or an account of it has been read, so minute and so interesting as to have made the impression received more lasting than any circumstance attending it.

We are able, in some instances, to trace the impression, by suggestion and association, back to some such origin. This leads us to infer that in cases where we are unable to do this, it is because suggestion or association fails us. If we deny that memory has anything to do with these impressions, then they become mysteries, and such mysteries as haunt and perplex a sensitive mind. It is more reasonable to admit the possible weakness and untrustworthiness of our faculties than to suppose that anything has happened contrary to the course of nature.—Youth's Companion.

Illustration of Magazines.

"What have you to say about illustrations?" was asked of Richard Watson Gilder, editor of The Century.

"Illustrating requires technical education. How, for instance, can a man make a scene illustrating a story without a thorough knowledge of the human figure? Magazines are constantly on the lookout for new illustrative talent, but a man or a woman must prove that he or she has illustrative as well as the artistic capacity. If he wishes to illustrate fiction, for instance, he must be able to know the thought of another. In the matter of descriptive draughtsmanship, he must be able to make pictures of places and things, which pictures adapt themselves readily to the condensed form in which they are presented in the narrow pages of a periodical. That faculty comes from practice. We constantly hear from girls or boys in the back woods, who send in specimens of work which have no art in them at all, though they may show a certain inventiveness."

"That brings us down to a practical point. Now, in this branch of art, when the person has talent and ability, yet no money to start with, where could he or she go to seek this technical training?"

"It is not absolutely necessary any more to go to Europe; several of the large cities in the west, as well as in the east, have excellent schools; but New York is probably on the whole, the best place in America for training in art; and the better the training the better for the artist, of course, in any branch he may follow for a livelihood. The illustrative faculty comes with practice and thorough attention to the needs of the periodical. The best school for magazine illustrative work is in the magazines themselves.—New York Mail and Express.

Teaching of the Hand.

Careful manual training is one of the few good things that are good for everybody. It is good for the rich boy, to teach him respect for the dignity of beautiful work. It is good for the poor boy, to increase his facility for handling tools, if tools prove to be the thing he must handle for a living afterwards. It is good for the bookish boy, to draw him away from books. But, most of all, it is good for the non-bookish boy, in showing him that there is something he can do well.

The boy utterly unable, even if he were studious, to keep up in book knowledge and percentage with the brighter boys becomes discouraged, dull and moody. Let him go to the work room for an hour and find that he can make a box or plane a rough piece of board as well as the brighter scholar—nay, very likely better than his brighter neighbor, and you have given him an impulse of self respect that is of untold benefit to him when he goes back to his studies. He will be a brighter and a better boy for finding out something that he can do well. Mind you, it is not planing the board that does him good; it is planing the board in the presence of other boys who can no longer look down upon him when they see how well he can plane. He might go home after school and plane a board in the bosom of his family or go to an evening school to learn to plane without a quarter part, nay, without any, of the invaluable effect upon his manhood that it will have to let him plane side by side with those who in mental attainments may be his superiors.—Nashville American.

Under the Sphinx' Eye.

Farther on is the desert; on the right is the desert; in front is the desert; all around is a vast plain, now golden, now red, now in part black, now gray, changing as the sun changes, as the great shadows of the pyramids are projected upon it, or as the moon comes with its pale light and tones down the grand chromatic display. The only variation in the wondrous expanse comes from the mounds of sand here and there. These last change agreeably to the whims of the wind. Like draught animals, at one moment they seem to be resting and waiting for their call to labor. Then the airy messenger comes and gives the word. At once the sand begins to rise in slender spirals. Body and strength are gathered as it continues whirling and ascending, until it towers aloft like a great black column. Now it is joined by a wild company impelled by the wind, and all hasten across the plain—all rising higher and higher, all wavering, spinning with awful velocity, until, their destination reached, they flare at the top like water spouts, break and burst high in the air, and are diffused—a terrible storm—upon the plain below. Woe be to man or camel on whom descends the awful weight! As far as the eye can see southward lies Egypt, the silvery Nile creeping along between the bands of emerald. Within view are over forty pyramids.—Scribner's Magazine.

Forests of Alaska.

The southeastern part of the territory, from being the most accessible, is the most frequently visited and the most commonly referred to as "Alaska" as a consequence, though really less of Alaska than Alaska is of the United States. Fully four-fifths of this part is quite densely wooded, and the other fifth is composed of water, which winds in innumerable channels like so many rivers crossing each other at all angles, but connecting with the sea; their waters are salt, and ocean steamers can ply their devious ways. For this reason "Alaska" (i. e. southeastern Alaska) has secured the reputation of being a well wooded country, when, in fact, for every acre of land the summer traveler has seen in this part, densely crowded with timber, there are square miles of untimbered tracts in the vast Arctic part termed tundra, that have never seen plant life larger than the leaves of moss upon it, with perhaps an exception here and there along the low water courses of a stunted willow a few inches high that the whole family of Salix would repudiate as black sheep in the fold, while there are square townships elsewhere of land so sparsely forested, or with such indifferent timber, that from all ordinary useful standpoints they might have almost been tundra, and give a little more grazing land to the reindeer thereby.—Frederick Schwatka.

Colds and Nerves.

A timid woman comes home one night pale and ghastly with fright, having encountered a specter clad in white, which she calls a "ghost." In a day or two she develops a cold, for which she cannot in any way account. Fear acts as a depressant to the nervous system, crippling its powers of resisting the action of cold, hence the phrase, "shivering with fear." Similarly, innumerable events of daily life tend to irritate, depress, or excite the nerves, and render them unfit for maintaining the body temperature against the fluctuations of weather and climate. During these unguarded moments a trifling exposure to cold or damp is sufficient to induce catarrh.—Contemporary Review.

Proprietary Medicines.

New York leads the list in the number of proprietary medicine manufacturers. It has 108 factories, with an invested capital amounting to $3,512,430. Ohio is second with 61 factories. Pennsylvania has 53; Massachusetts, 40; Maryland, 34; Missouri, 27; Illinois, 22; California, 22; Michigan, 20; Rhode Island, 20; Connecticut, 13; New Jersey, 12; Virginia, 12; Georgia, 12; Kentucky, 12, and Vermont, 10. Nebraska, North Carolina and Colorado have only one each. The total amount of capital invested is $10,620,880. About 5,000 hands are employed, and nearly $2,000,000 yearly are paid to them. The value of materials used is $6,704,729, and the value of products is $14,682,494.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

UNCERTAINTIES.

Pink linen bonnet,
Pink cotton gown,
Roses printed on it,
Hands burnt brown.
Oh! blithe were all the piping birds, and the golden belted bees,
And blithe sang she on the doorstep, with her apron full of peas.

Sound of scythe and mowing,
Where buttercups grew tall;
Sound of red kine lowing
And early milkmaid's call.
Sweet she sang on the doorstep, with the young peas in her lap,
And he came whistling up the lane, with the ribbons in his cap.

"You called me a bad penny
That wouldn't be sent away—
But here's good-by to you, Jenny,
For many and many a day.
There's talk of cannon and killing—
Nay, never turn so white:
And I've taken the king's shilling—
I took it last night."

Oh! merry, merry piped the thrushes up in the cherry tree,
But dumb she sat on the doorstep, and out through the gate went he.

Scent of hay and summer;
Red evening sky;
Noise of fife and drummer;
Men marching by.
The hay will be carried presently, and the cherries gathered all,
And the corn stand yellow in the shocks, and the leaves begin to fall.

Perhaps some evening after,
With no more song of thrush,
The lads will cease their laughter
And the maids their clatter hush;
And word of blood and battle
Will mix with the sound of the flail,
And lowing of the cattle
And clink of the milking pail;
And one will read half fearful,
A list of names aloud,
And a few will stagger, tearful,
Out of the little crowd.
And she, perhaps half doubting,
Half knowing why she came,
Will stand among them, pouting,
And hear perhaps, his name.
Will weep, perhaps, a little, as she wanders up the lane,
And wish one summer morning were all to do again.

—Mary Probyn in Macmillan's Magazine.

GOVERNMENT EXPERT'S REPORT

Concerning Gems and Precious Stones Found in the United States.

The report of George F. Kunz, the expert in gems, which has just been issued by the geological survey, contains much interesting information relating to the discovery of precious stones in the United States. The list of accidental finds throughout the country is large enough to be inspiring. Mr. Kunz calls them accidental, and then says that at Salida, Colo., over a ton of garnets have been picked up during the year. They find garnets of the same sort in Lewiston, Idaho. Some of the pure, clear quartz, when it comes in big chunks, is quite valuable. They found some very large masses in Virginia early in the year. They were reported as transparent crystals of quartz, one weighing 642 pounds, another 340 pounds. When these reached New York, however, they proved not to be crystals, but veins of translucent quartzite, with crystalline markings of a group rather than of a single crystal, and the clear spaces, which were only observed on these crystalline sides, would not afford a crystal ball more than one inch in diameter. The larger part was almost white with flaws. "Such would do," however, to sell to tourists," says Mr. Kunz, naively.

Some amethysts have been found during the past year at Deer Island, Me.; also a few amethysts are found at Burrville, R. I. A precious stone of much interest is an opaque white hydrophane discovered in Colorado. The finder has named it "magic stone," because, as usual with this mineral, it possesses the property of becoming absolutely transparent if water is dropped slowly on it from one to three minutes. It is so porous that it will absorb its own weight of water. It quickly recovers its opacity. A beautiful pink chalcedony has been found at Cisco, Utah. It admits of a high polish, but it has not yet been introduced in any quantity.

T. F. Lamb and G. C. Hatch mined for a time at the Mount Apatite locality, near Auburn, Me., and found tourmaline gems and minerals to the value of $500. This locality will be further worked. Quite a large number of the yellow, green and white beryls found in Litchfield county have been nicely cut and extensively sold. The cut gems sold during the past year are valued at $5,000, but a large part of this sum probably represents the cutting and other necessary expenses. The Marion Bullion company, at Marion, N. C., does not make a business of digging for gems, but Col. Deming has found so many garnets there that it paid him to sell them in quantities to manufacturing jewelers. There was also one fine amethyst of a magnificent purple color and over one inch across, fine aquamarinas from one to six carats in weight and some beautiful chloritic inclusions in quartz, which, when polished, show very fine landscape effects.—Washington Cor. New York Sun.

THE DIFFERENCE OF HEIGHT.

Inhabitants of Limestone Regions Taller Than Those of Granite Districts.

When we see races of tall and well developed negroes living close by the regions occupied by such dwarfed races as the Akkas and Obongos we perceive that the difference of height must be due to difference of race, not to peculiarities in the place of abode. But there are cases where a marked difference of height is certainly due to difference in the conditions of life, for it shows itself in one and the same race. Dr. Pritchard, for example, long time since remarked on the change which the race of short, plump, round faced farmers of England underwent when they settled in Virginia and Carolina, the race becoming tall, lank, gaunt and otherwise remarkable. Still more striking is the evidence afforded within the comparatively narrow limits of Switzerland and the Tyrol, where it has been found that inhabitants of limestone regions are measurably taller than those living in granite or schistose districts. M. Durand confirms the statement of Dr. Albespy that by liming the lands in the non-calcareous portions of the Aveyron the average height of the inhabitants has been raised in some parts by three-fourths of an inch, in others by one and one-eighth inches, and in others by more than an inch and a half.

In the limestone regions of Ireland, as Pritchard long since noted, men of remarkable stature are often seen, though all the British isles derived their stock of inhabitants from the same sources, despite the ideas commonly entertained in the Emerald Island respecting the racial difference between themselves and "the base, bloody and brutal Saxon." But the evidence given by Kentucky in this respect is perhaps more striking than any other. For there, over the whole limestone region the average height of men has increased until the size of Kentuckians has become proverbial, and has given rise to innumerable jokes—sufficient evidence, despite the absurdity of some of them, of the superior height of the average Kentuckian. It was a Kentuckian who was afraid to walk abroad at night in England lest he should fall off the little island; the Kentuckian invariably requires at least five chairs to sit upon, and so forth. Now, that the lime has something to do with this exceptional height (for these standing jokes are not wholly lying ones) is proved by the circumstance that cattle also partake in the unusual development. What had been noticed on a small scale in the well known experiment of La Camargue, in which case a breed of horses was immeasurably increased in height through careful feeding, is seen throughout Kentucky and in all kinds of cattle.

I think we may fairly conclude from the evidence, imperfect though it is, that stature may be increased by judiciously selected food, and probably that lime should in one form or another be given in increased quantity in the food where growth is to be encouraged. Yet such measures ought to be carefully guided by medical experience; for the same evidence which shows that special conditions may encourage abnormal growth shows also that they may cause abnormal growth—which is a very different thing. For instance, it has been shown that goitre is chiefly prevalent in regions where lime prevails largely as a geological formation. This is not only noticed in Switzerland, which might almost be called the native home of goitre, but in England, where goitre occurs spasmodically in Derbyshire only, the most calcareous point of the island.—Professor Richard A. Proctor.

A Paper Chase in France.

"Speaking of aristocratic sport," said a Frenchman visiting here, "reminds me to say that our sport is mostly of that character. Such great games as we have are played mainly by the titled persons and the military. The leading one I think of is a paper chase on horseback, conducted in very much the same way that the English and Americans play hare and hounds. With us two of the most intrepid horsemen start from a given point at a set time and mark their course by scattering bits of paper as they go. They stop not for barriers of any description and disdain roads. The pack also on horseback pursues them and catch them if they can. This game is always accompanied by a considerable concourse of spectators in carriages, who keep up with the pursuit as best they can by driving along the roads. It is a great game and calls for the exercise of no little nerve and vigor. The courses are from fifteen to twenty miles in length."—New York Cor. Philadelphia Times.

Didn't Know Her.

"Why didn't you get up and give her your seat or permit me to give her mine?" said a woman to her husband. They had just got off a car. The woman's face expressed great anxiety of mind. "Why should we give her a seat?" the husband asked. "Just because she was so richly dressed, I suppose," he added. "Is it possible that you did not know her?" the wife exclaimed. "Of course; I am not supposed to know every well dressed woman who comes along." "Oh James, she is our cook, and I am afraid she will treasure up against us our lack of courtesy." "Why didn't you tell me?" the husband exclaimed. The woman did not reply, but, trembling violently, leaned heavily upon his arm.—Arkansaw Traveler.

Ships of America.

The following is a late computation of the ships owned by and flying the flags of the Latin-American countries: Sailing vessels—Chili, 155; Brazil, 100; Argentine Republic, 68; Mexico, 44; Uruguay, 34; Peru, 31; Hayti, 29; Nicaragua, 24; Venezuela, 11; Colombia, 7; Salvador, 5; Costa Rica, 4; Bolivia, 3; Santo Domingo, 2; Honduras, 1; total, 494. Steamships—Brazil, 82; Chili, 23; Argentine Republic, 22; Mexico, 11; Peru, 5; Uruguay, 4; Venezuela, 3; Hayti, 2; Costa Rica, 2; Ecuador, 1; Santo Domingo, 1; Honduras, 1; total, 160.—Chicago News.

The oldest general of the United States army is William Selby Harney. He was born near Nashville, Tenn., in 1800, and entered the army in 1818. He was brevetted major general on March 13, 1865.

Professor Virchow, in his new work, declares that cancer is curable.

A Submarine Valley.

At the mouth of the Congo there is a remarkable submarine valley. Just at the mouth of the river it is 1,452 feet deep, and it can be distinctly traced for 100 miles out to sea.—New York Sun.

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